Talents in Scientific Enterprises

2220. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has shown concern over lack of talent in scientific fields;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he suggested that scientific enterprises and research activity should be rooted through university system, and for this university system should be reformed and restructured; and

(c) the details of the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In several fora of scientists and educationists in recent times, the Hon'ble Prime Minister has expressed concern over lack of talent in scientific fields. More recently, while addressing the CSIR Society, he suggested that our scientific enterprise and research activity should be rooted in the university system, and, for this, our univesity system must be reformed, restructured and rejuvenated.

(c) Universities are the mainstay of research in basic sciences all over the world, but, in our country, universities have been suffering because of a variety of financial and governance problems leading to, among other things, depletion of faculty and impoverishment of research infrastructure. Most universities fall in the domain of State Governments and they need to address the problems urgently. The Government of India, on its part, has taken a number of steps to rejuvenate and promote scientific research in universities and other scientific institutes of exellence. The Research Infrastructure programme of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) is a targeted programme to upgrade the laboratory infrastructure in universities and other higher educational institutions. Several centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas have also been established in universities. Various agencies of Government of India have now attractive scholarship, fellowship and research support schemes for scientific manpower of all ages starting right from the school level.

More recently, three new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have been set up at Kolkata, Pune and Mohali. A National Institute of Science Education and Research is being set up at

Bhubaneswar. These institutes, apart from carrying out frontline and internationally competitive research, would offer integrated M.Sc. programmes in a multi-disciplinary and academically flexible and research-oriented environment.

The Government has also started some novel programmes to make our higher educational institutions professionally even more useful for developing technology. The DST programme of manpower development in collaboration with industry enhances the quality of technical education and makes it relevant for the industry through well-designed courses developed in close association with participating industries. A large network of S&T Entrepreneurship Parks and Technology Business Incubators has been established to synergize the technical expertise of engineering institutions and spirit of enterpreneurship.

The Government, in the XI[th] Plan is also proposing to launch a new scheme called INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research). The main features of the proposed scheme will be: (1) innovation funding in schools (one million young innovators); (2) summer camp with science icons (for high performers); (3) assured opportunity schemes for proven talent force; and, (4) retention of talent in public funded research through public-private partnerships. In addition, another new scheme on Scholarships for Science in Higher Education will be initiated in the XI[th] Plan. The scheme targets institution of 10,000 fellowships of Rs. 1,00,000/- per year for bright students in science streams during their B.Sc/M.Sc courses.

The Government of India had constituted a high-level Task Force for looking at steps to boost basic scientific research in universities. Based on the recommendations of the Task Force, the Government proposes to take a number of steps like filling up of vacant sanctioned faculty positions in universities, creation of large number of Research Scientist positions, linkage between universities and national laboratories, organization of summer and winter schools, providing enhanced funding for research etc.

Scientists in CSIR Laboratories

2221. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are ensuring that innovators get better monetary returns for their work and propose to give greater autonomy to the CSIR for